



NIH BACKGROUND

National Institutes of Health

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The Nation's Medical Research Agency

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the primary Federal agency for conducting and supporting medical research, helping to lead the way toward important medical discoveries that improve people's health and save lives. NIH investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. Composed of 27 Institutes and Centers, each with its own broadly defined mission, NIH provides leadership and financial support to researchers in every state and throughout the world.

- For over a century, the National Institutes of Health has played an important role in improving the health of the nation. NIH traces its roots to 1887 with the creation of the Hygiene Laboratory at the Marine Hospital in Staten Island, NY.
- The NIH is an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. With its headquarters in Bethesda, MD, NIH has more than 17,000 employees on its main campus and at satellite sites across the country.
- With the support of the American people, the NIH annually invests over \$28 billion in medical research. More than 80% of the NIH's funding is awarded through almost 50,000 competitive grants to more than 212,000 researchers at over 3,000 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions in every state and around the world. About 10% of the NIH's budget supports projects conducted by nearly 6,000 scientists in its own laboratories, most of which are on the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD.

Connecting to the NIH

For more information on the National Institutes of Health, go to the NIH Web site, www.nih.gov, to link to the latest, reliable health information and news; more details about the National Institutes of Health and its 27 Institutes and Centers; information about clinical trials.

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